

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00475 301414Z

45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 301350Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1179

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR LY EG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PROPAGANDA AGAINST EGYPT

1. LARG PROPAGANDA MACHINERY IS FULLY ENGAGED IN COUNTERING EGYPTIAN CHARGES OF LIBYAN IMPLICATION IN ATTACK ON MILITARY ACADEMY. FROM HIS SECLUDED POSITION QADHAFI HIMSELF IS PROBABLY PLAYING ACTIVE ROLE IN CAMPAIGN. EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS ARE QUICKLY SOLD OUT ON TRIPOLI NEWSSTANDS, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT PUBLIC ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON CONTROVERSY.

2. HOWEVER, WE HAVE STRONG IMPRESSION MOST LIBYANS DO NOT FEEL AT ALL INVOLVED. PROBLEM IS REGARDED AS ANOTHER RESULT OF QADHAFI'S FOREIGN ADVENTURES, WHICH THEY HAVE BECOME CONDITIONED TO AND DO NOT PARTICULARLY ADMIRE. APATHY AND NON-INVOLVEMENT IS GREATLY ENCOURAGED, OF COURSE, BY GENERAL FEAR OF THE EFFECTIVE SECRET POLICE APPARATUS. LIBYANS HAVE BECOME MOST CAUTIOUS ABOUT CONGREGATING OR AIRING THEIR VIEWS.

3. ONE OF LARG'S FAVORITE PROPAGANDA THEMES IS CRITICISM TO DISCREDIT EGYPT FOR ITS STRENGTHENED TIES WITH U.S. TRIED AND TRUE TERMINOLOGY IS BEING RESURRECTED--"UGLY FACE OF U.S.", "AGENTS OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE", "AID
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00475 301414Z

TO AGENT REGIMES".

4. WHILE LARGE EGYPTIAN COMMUNITY OF TECHNICIANS AND
FAMILIES IN LIBYA IS UNCOMFORTABLE IN MIDST OF ALL THIS,
THERE IS AS YET NO SERIOUS CONCERN THEY WILL BE ESPECIALLY
AFFECTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TRIPOL00475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740102-1043
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974041/aaaaaib.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN PROPAGANDA AGAINST EGYPT
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LY, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005